Participation of Indian in the Expo 92 at Seville

@2179. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India participated in the EXPO 92 at Seville the World's biggest expo event;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the participation ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's tourist attractions including its cultural and historical contribution in the development of civilisation were highlighted at the EXPO, which was visited by over three million people.

Strike deferred by pilots of Indian Airlines

2180. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether pilots of the Indian Airlines propose to go on a strike but have deferred the same by a fortnight;

(b) what are the reasons for the agitation of the pilots; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to ensure smooth running of the Indian Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The Indian Commercial Pilots' Association has raised several financial demands and has issued directives to its members not to operate many flights. As a result, some of the pilots refused to undertake flying duties resulting in cancellation of flights. The Association also gave notice dated 13-10-1992 to go on strike from 30-10-1992, but kept the same in abeyance. The Association has given a fresh notice dated 24-11-1992 to go on strike from 10th December, 1992.

(b) The main reasons for the agitation by pilots are certain financial demands and include what they perceive as lack of safety measures at some airfields.

(c) The issues relating to safety measures have been referred for arbitration to the Director General of Civil Aviation. As regards the financial demands, the entire question of pay and allowances of the employees of Indian Airlines for a period of five years with effect from 1-9-1990 stands referred to the National Industrial Tribunal.

Revolver found inside checked baggage

2181. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :

SHRI J. S. RAJU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Security Agencies at the Meenambakkam Airport found out a revolver inside a checked in baggage of one Shri Chandraswamy; and

(b) if so, whether the baggage was permitted to be loaded into the aircarft alongwith the revolver ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) During X-ray screening an unloaded revolver was monitored in the registered baggage of Shri Chandraswamy while he was checking-in for flight IC-539 on 22-10-1992. The baggage was scanned again and loaded in the aircraft with the weapon 'under escort'.

Improvement of services in Hotels

2182. SHRI RAMJI LAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is the influx of tourists in the country at present and what is the policy of Government to increase the tourism in the country;

(b) whether the facilities/amenities provided to tourists is going down in comparison of prevailing rates in the hotels, Yatri Niwas, etc. in the country; and

@Previous Unstarred Question 1640, transferred from 3-12-92.